

SSB 6366 - S AMD 125

By Senator Keiser

ADOPTED 2/13/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause, and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

4 (1) Pandemic influenza is a global outbreak of disease that occurs
5 when a new virus appears in the human population, causes serious
6 illness, and then spreads easily from person to person.

7 (2) Historically, pandemic influenza has occurred on average every
8 thirty years. Most recently, the Asian flu in 1957-58 and the Hong
9 Kong flu in 1968-69 killed seventy thousand and thirty-four thousand,
10 respectively, in the United States.

11 (3) Another influenza pandemic could emerge with little warning,
12 affecting a large number of people. Estimates are that another
13 pandemic influenza would cause more than two hundred thousand deaths in
14 our country, with as many as five thousand in Washington. Our state
15 could also expect ten thousand to twenty-four thousand people needing
16 hospital stays, and as many as a million people requiring outpatient
17 visits. During a severe pandemic these numbers could be much higher.
18 The economic losses could also be substantial.

19 (4) The current Avian or bird flu that is spreading around the
20 world has the potential to start a pandemic. There is yet no proven
21 vaccine, and antiviral medication supplies are limited and of unknown
22 effectiveness against a human version of the virus, leaving traditional
23 public health measures as the only means to slow the spread of the
24 disease. Given the global nature of a pandemic, as much as possible,
25 the state must be able to respond assuming only limited outside
26 resources and assistance will be available.

27 (5) An effective response to pandemic influenza in Washington must
28 focus at the local level and will depend on preestablished partnerships
29 and collaborative planning on a range of best-case and worst-case
30 scenarios. It will require flexibility and real-time decision making,
31 guided by accurate information. It will also depend on a well-informed
32 public that understands the dangers of pandemic influenza and the steps
33 necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

1 (6) Avian flu is but one example of an infectious disease that,
2 were an outbreak to occur, could pose a significant statewide health
3 hazard. As such, preparation for pandemic flu will also enhance the
4 capacity of local public health jurisdictions to respond to other
5 emergencies.

6 It is therefore the intent of the legislature that adequate
7 pandemic flu preparedness and response plans be developed and
8 implemented by local public health jurisdictions statewide in order to
9 limit the number of illnesses and deaths, preserve the continuity of
10 essential government and other community services, and minimize social
11 disruption and economic loss in the event of an influenza pandemic.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
13 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

15 (2) "Local health jurisdiction" means a local health department as
16 established under chapter 70.05 RCW, a combined city-county health
17 department as established under chapter 70.08 RCW, or a health district
18 established under chapter 70.05 or 70.46 RCW.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** To the extent state or federal funds are
20 provided for this purpose, by January 1, 2007, each local health
21 jurisdiction shall develop a pandemic flu preparedness and response
22 plan, consistent with requirements and performance standards
23 established by the department and the United States department of
24 health and human services, for the purpose of:

25 (1) Defining preparedness activities that should be undertaken
26 before a pandemic occurs that will enhance the effectiveness of
27 response measures;

28 (2) Describing the response, coordination, and decision-making
29 structure that will incorporate the local health jurisdiction, the
30 local health care system, other local response agencies, and state and
31 federal agencies during the pandemic;

32 (3) Defining the roles and responsibilities for the local health
33 jurisdiction, local health care partners, and local response agencies
34 during all phases of a pandemic;

35 (4) Describing public health interventions in a pandemic response
36 and the timing of such interventions;

1 (5) Serving as a guide for local health care system partners,
2 response agencies, and businesses in the development of pandemic
3 influenza response plans; and

4 (6) Providing technical support and information on which
5 preparedness and response actions are based.

6 Each plan shall be developed based on an assessment by the local
7 health jurisdiction of its current capacity to respond to pandemic flu
8 and otherwise meet department outcome measures related to infectious
9 disease outbreaks of statewide significance.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Each jurisdiction shall develop its pandemic
11 flu preparedness and response plan in consultation with appropriate
12 public and private sector partners, including departments of emergency
13 management, law enforcement, school districts, hospitals and medical
14 professionals, tribal governments, and business organizations. At a
15 minimum, each plan shall address:

16 (1) Strategies to educate the public about the consequences of
17 influenza pandemic and what each person can do to prepare, including
18 the adoption of universal infectious disease prevention practices and
19 maintaining appropriate emergency supplies;

20 (2) Jurisdiction-wide disease surveillance programs, coordinated
21 with state and federal efforts, to detect pandemic influenza strains in
22 humans and animals, including health care provider compliance with
23 reportable conditions requirements, and investigation and analysis of
24 reported illness or outbreaks;

25 (3) Communication systems, including the availability of and access
26 to specialized communications equipment by health officials and
27 community leaders, and the use of mass media outlets;

28 (4) Mass vaccination plans and protocols to rapidly administer
29 vaccine and monitor vaccine effectiveness and safety;

30 (5) Guidelines for the utilization of antiviral medications for the
31 treatment and prevention of influenza;

32 (6) Implementation of nonmedical measures to decrease the spread of
33 the disease as guided by the epidemiology of the pandemic, including
34 increasing adherence to public health advisories, voluntary social
35 isolation during outbreaks, and health officer orders related to
36 quarantines;

37 (7) Medical system mobilization, including improving the linkages
38 and coordination of emergency responses across health care

1 organizations, and assuring the availability of adequate facilities and
2 trained personnel; and

3 (8) Strategies for maintaining social order and essential
4 community services while limiting the spread of disease throughout the
5 duration of the pandemic.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** To the extent state or federal funds are
7 provided for this purpose, the department, in consultation with the
8 state director of emergency management, shall provide technical
9 assistance and disburse funds as needed to support local health
10 jurisdictions in developing their pandemic flu preparedness and
11 response plans. Upon receipt of a plan determined by the department to
12 meet its established requirements and standards, additional funding
13 shall be provided to a district to support the preparedness response
14 activities identified in the plan, including but not limited to:

15 (1) Education, information, and outreach, in multiple languages, to
16 increase community preparedness and reduce the spread of the disease
17 should it occur;

18 (2) Development of materials and systems to be used in the event of
19 a pandemic to keep the public informed about the influenza, the course
20 of the pandemic, and response activities;

21 (3) Development of the legal documents necessary to facilitate and
22 support the necessary government response;

23 (4) Training and response drills for local health jurisdiction
24 staff, law enforcement, health care providers, and others with
25 responsibilities identified in the plan;

26 (5) Enhancement of the communicable disease surveillance system;
27 and

28 (6) Development of coordination and communication systems among
29 responding agencies.

30 Where appropriate, these activities shall be coordinated and funded
31 on a regional or statewide basis. In the event that a local health
32 jurisdiction does not show adequate progress towards implementing its
33 plan, the department may intervene to provide necessary technical
34 assistance.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
36 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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3 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "influenza;" strike the
4 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new chapter to Title 70
5 RCW."

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EFFECT: Adds more detail to the required components of the plan,
and clarifies that the plan is to be developed and implemented with
department of health assistance and consistent with department of
health standards.